

VZCZCXYZ0005
RR RUEHWEB

DE RUEHTV #0392 0501048
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
R 191048Z FEB 10
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 5546
INFO RUEHJM/AMCONSUL JERUSALEM 3765

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 000392

SIPDIS

STATE FOR NEA/IPA and OES/S - Foster-Carter

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [ECON](#) [SOCI](#) [IS](#)
SUBJECT: Israel's Legislation on Text Messaging

REF: (A) STATE 6703 (B) Tel Aviv 273

[¶1.](#) (U) In follow-up on the Distracted Drivers demarche (ref A), Post has received from the Israel National Road Safety Authority (INRSA) the text of the applicable part of Israeli law. The head of the INRSA offered the text in para 2 in informal translation from Hebrew (note: there is no official translation of Israeli law available). The first paragraph translates the applicable law, the second part provides definitions of "hands-free device" and "telephone" respectively.

[¶2.](#) (U) Begin Text:

[¶1.](#) When the car is moving
(a) holding or using any telephone is prohibited. Instead, use of a hands-free device is allowed.
(b) sending or reading text messages (SMS) is prohibited.

[¶2.](#) A hands-free device is a device that is used as a phone that does not need to be held, and only if it is placed in a stable position that prevents it from falling. A telephone could be any device intended for communication which has buttons that are pressed to dial.

End of Text

[¶3.](#) (U) Although the Embassy has received no formal response to the demarche yet from the MFA, post believes the GOI can be considered as committed to road safety, and a potential contributor to the March UNRSC discussion on the topic. Official response from the GOI will be conveyed when received.

CUNNINGHAM